

First Peter 2:11-25



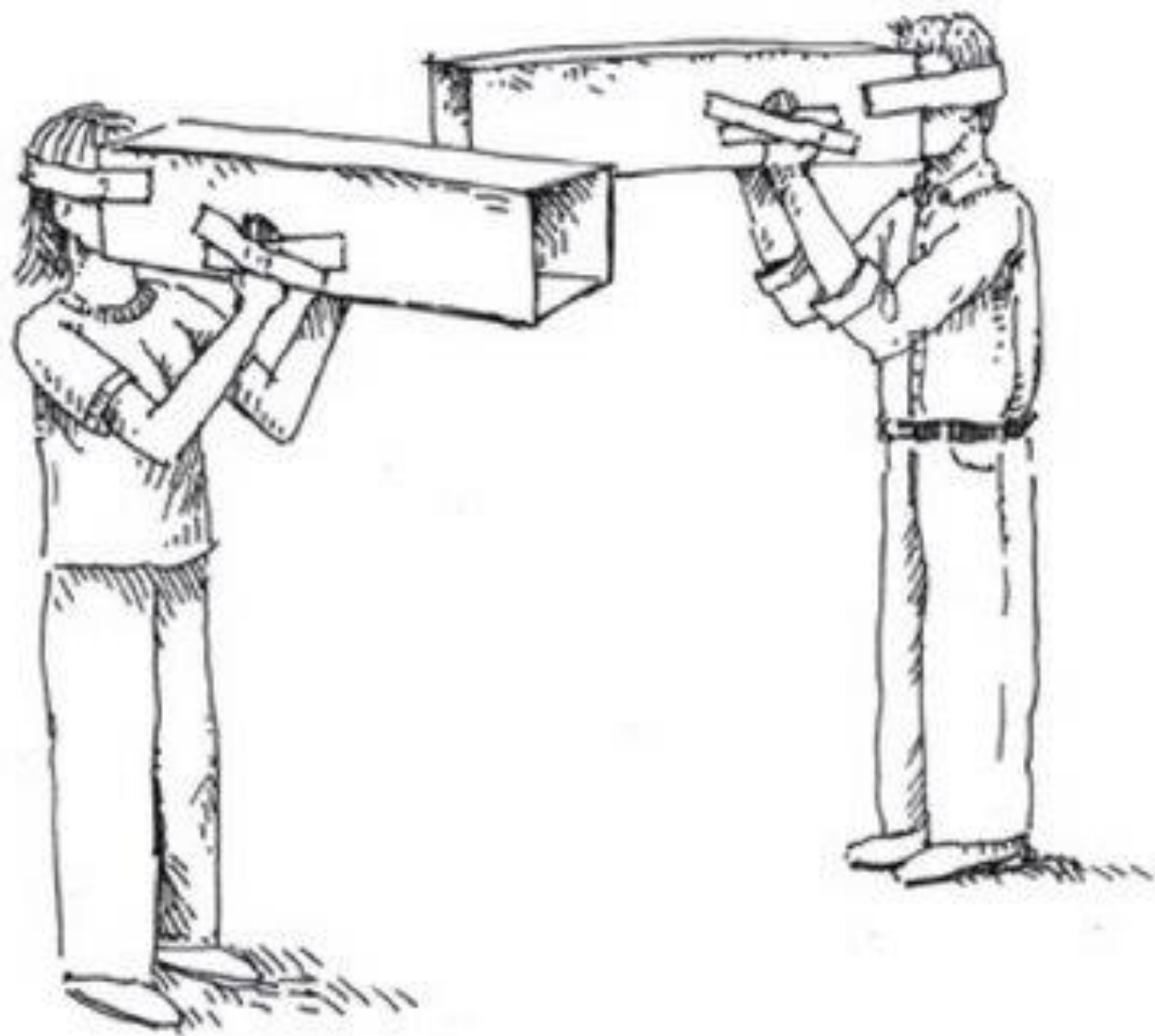
Monday Night Meeting

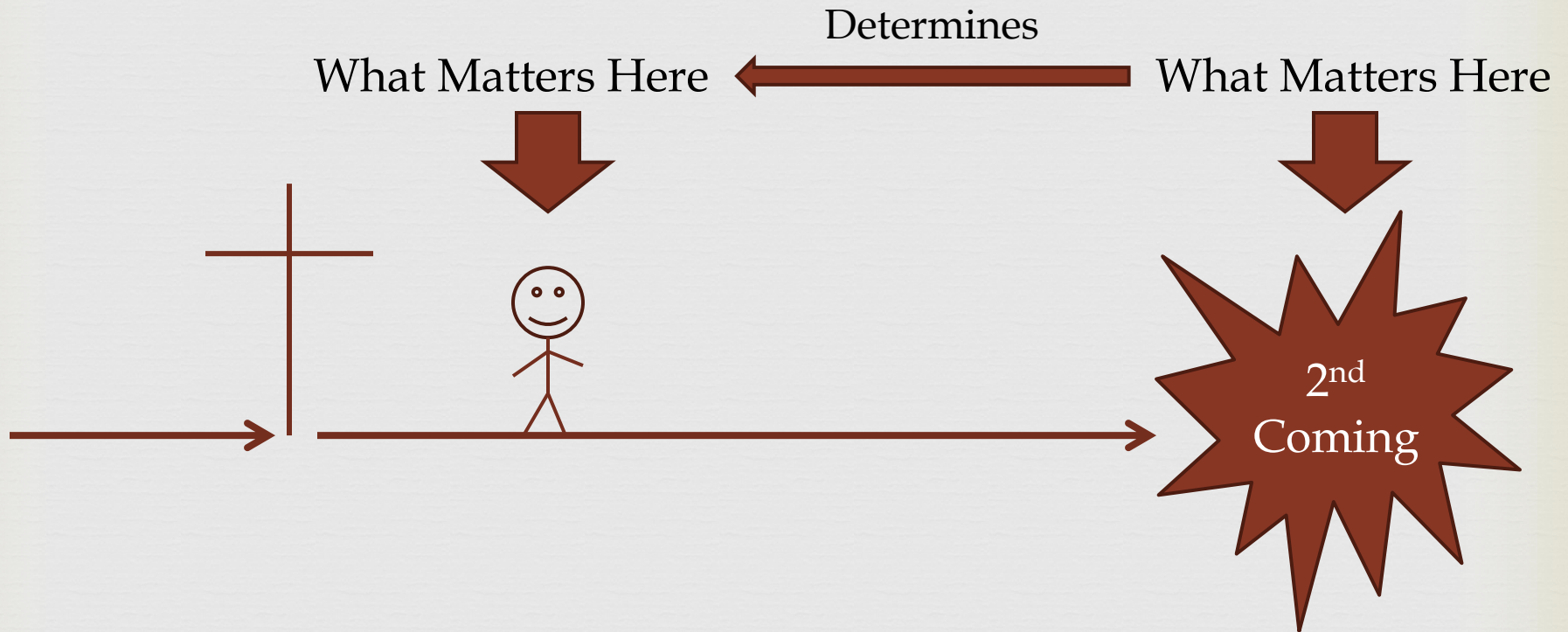




“Stress cause most people to focus narrowly on the thing that they consider most important, and it may be the wrong thing.”

(Gonzales, Deep Survival, 39)





- ❧ Salutation (1:1-2)
- ❧ God's Gracious Activity in the Lives of Suffering Believers (1:3-2:10)
 - ❧ Destined for Salvation (1:2-12)
 - ❧ Called to a New Way of Life (1:13-21)
 - ❧ Formed into God's People (1:22-2:10)
- ❧ The Mission of Suffering Believers in the World (2:11-4:6)
 - ❧ The General Strategy (2:11-12)
 - ❧ The Specific Strategy (2:13-3:12)
 - ❧ Submit to Civil Authority (2:13-17)
 - ❧ Submit to Masters (2:18-25)
 - ❧ Submit to Husbands (Honor Wives) (3:1-7)
 - ❧ Do Good to All (3:8-12)
 - ❧ The Promise of Vindication (3:13-4:6)
- ❧ The Mission of Suffering Believers in the Church (4:7-5:11)
- ❧ Final Greeting (5:12-14)

Big Picture



- ✧ Not only is your suffering evidence of God choosing and saving you (1:3-2:10), it is a unique opportunity to display Christ to a lost world (2:11-4:6).

The General Strategy (2:11-12)



- ❧ **COMMAND: abstain from fleshly lusts=** “abstain from the...desires associated with the unredeemed culture within which they live” (Achteemeier 176)
- ❧ **PURPOSE #1: Keep your behavior=** Participle of purpose
- ❧ **excellent/ good deeds=** There are two big words for good in Greek:
 - ❧ “agathos” meaning moral, inner goodness
 - ❧ “kalos” meaning outward good or beauty. Interestingly, Peter here uses the word “kalos”. You could translate this, “by keeping your way of life attractive among the Gentiles.

J.H. Jowett



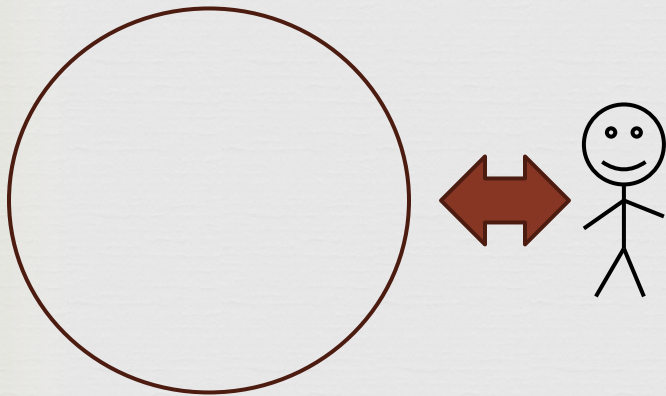
“Every man may be an ambassador of life, discharging his office through the medium of holiness. Every man may be an evangelist in the domain of character, distributing his influence through the odor of sanctity, in seemliness of behavior, in exquisite fitness of speech, in finely finished and well-proportioned life. This is a ministry for everybody, the apostleship of spiritual beauty.” (79)

The General Strategy (2:11-12)

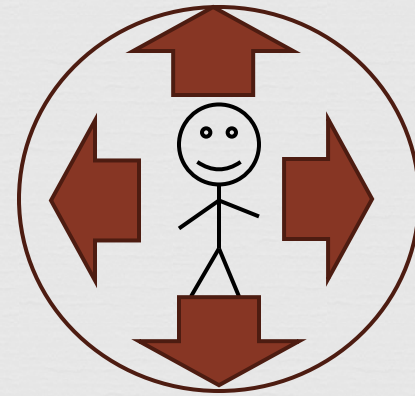


- ❧ **PURPOSE #2: they might glorify God in the day of visitation=** Peter almost certainly has in mind the day of Christ's return (Is. 10:3, Jer. 6:15, Luke 1:68). This could be understood in two ways:
 - ❧ Judgment in View: Because of the attractive lives of Christians, unbelievers will be forced to realize and confess that Jesus is Lord on the last day (Phil 2:10-11).
 - ❧ Salvation in View: Because of the attractive lives of Christians, some unbelievers will repent and believe and give God glory on the last day (1 Pet. 3:1-2).

☞ **Main Idea:** The believer must be counter culture while at the same time transforming culture. He is at odds with culture but also the very best of culture.



Not of the World



In the World

The Specific Strategy (2:13-3:12)

Submit to Civil Authority (2:13-17)



☞ Peter has to avoid three dangers:

☞ **Bad Distinction in culture:** All laws and cultural expectations are not binding on the believer because Christ has delivered him from that futile way of life.

☞ **No Distinction in culture:** All Laws and cultural expectations must be conformed to because God wills it.

☞ **No presence in culture:** Let's build a gated community, withdraw from this sinful world, be holy and wait for Jesus to come back.

The Specific Strategy (2:13-3:12)

Submit to Civil Authority (2:13-17)



- ❧ **COMMAND:** Obey respectfully unless commanded to sin
- ❧ **REASON #1: For the Lord's sake=**
 - ❧ Heightens the command: We must obey authorities out of devotion and submission to Christ.
 - ❧ Limits the command: We cannot submit to anything that is against God's will.
- ❧ **REASON #2: such is the will of God=** “To silence by doing good the ignorance of foolish men.”

The Specific Strategy (2:13-3:12)

Submit to Civil Authority (2:13-17)



ATTITUDE:

- Submit...as free men= Biblical freedom is not independence, but the capacity to cease from sin and do right. (John 8:34-36)
- Submit ...as God's slave (doulos)= "True freedom, true ability to choose and do what one really wants to do, comes paradoxically in entire submission to God" (Grudem 121)

Fear God

Love the Brotherhood

Honor all People

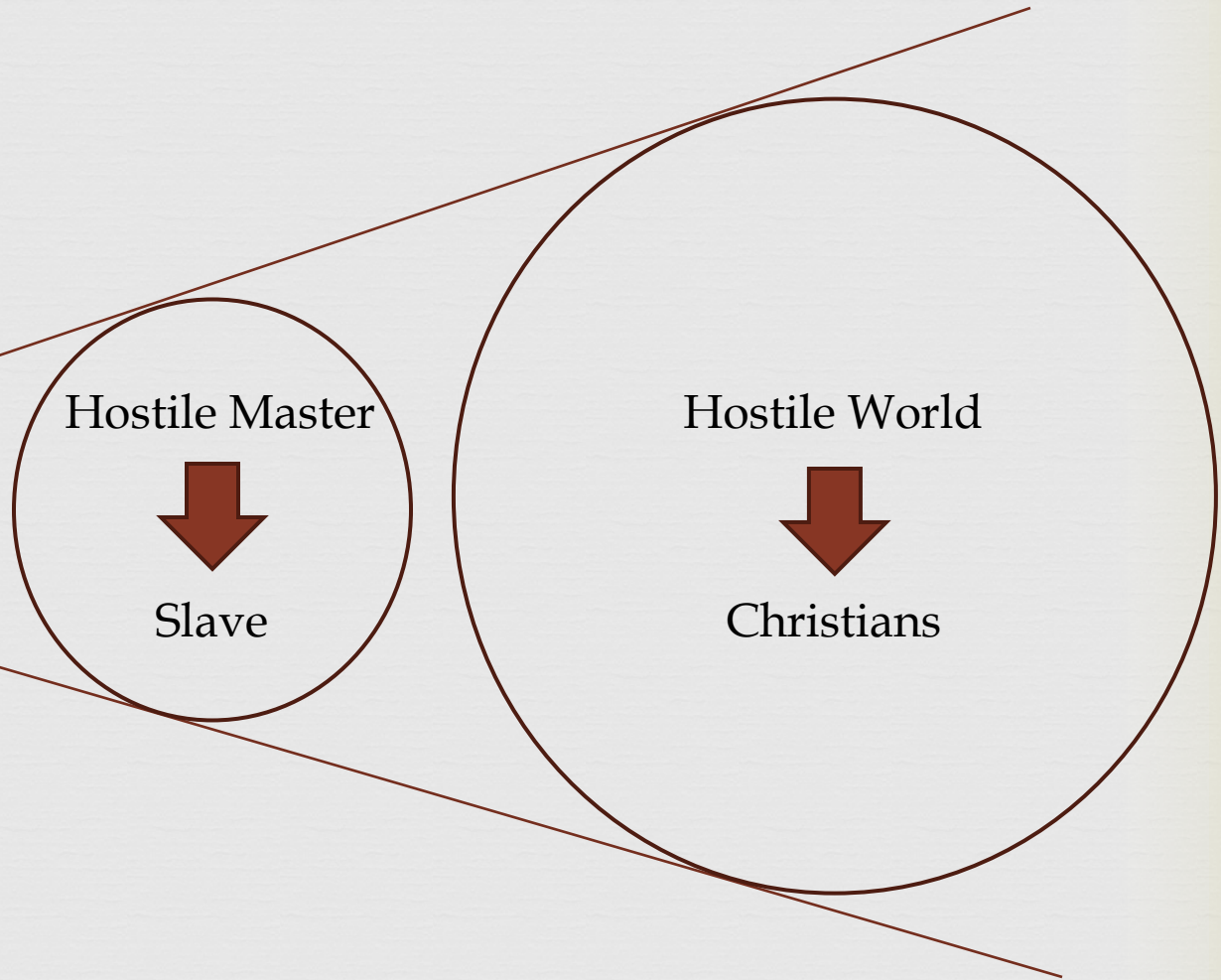
Honor the Emperor

The Specific Strategy (2:13-3:12)

Submit to Masters (2:18-25)



- ❧ **COMMAND:** submit= obedience and respect
- ❧ **REASON #1:** A Christ-like response to unjust suffering pleases God.
- ❧ **REASON #2:** Like Christ, we have been **called** to suffer for doing right.



Hostile Master



Slave

Hostile World



Christians

“Called” in 1 Peter



PAST

Called out
of darkness

PRESENT

Called to do
right and suffer

FUTURE

Called to
eternal glory



2nd
Coming

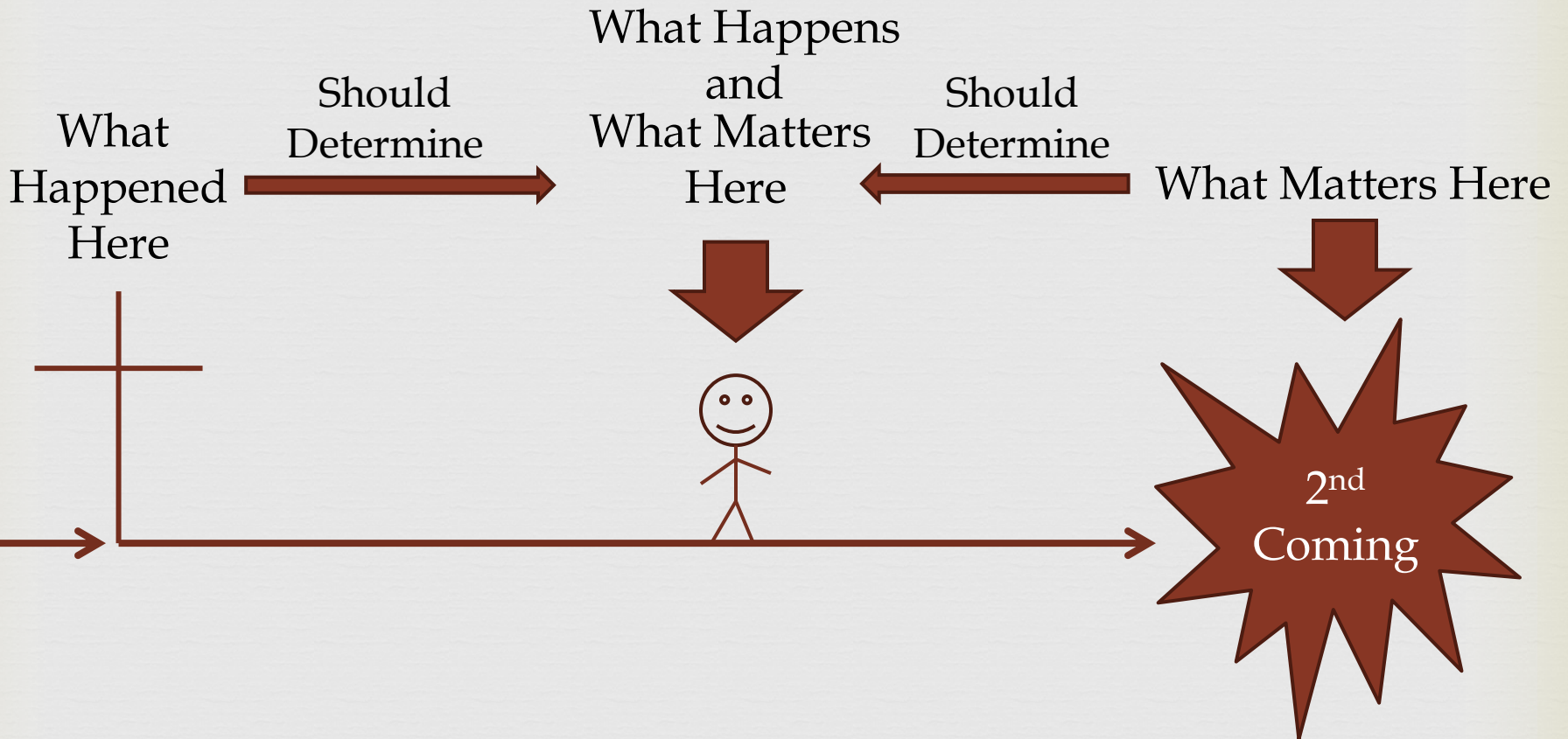


The Specific Strategy (2:13-3:12)

Submit to Masters (2:18-25)



- ❧ **Example=** upogramma= under writing. Christ has left us an original that we can trace with our lives.
- ❧ Christ is an “example” of how to respond: no retaliation, no threats, continual entrusting (leaving it, handing over).
- ❧ Christ is an “example” of why to respond: Just as Christ bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness, So we too are called to bear in our bodies the sins of others against us (not in an atoning way), so that they might die to sin and live to righteousness.



Question for July 22



Both in 3:9 and 2:21 Peter uses the almost identical phrase “for to this you were called”. Meditate on the relationship between these two verses.